

## READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

### A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come. The glory of the Lord is rising on you though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings come to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and come towards you: your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full

- since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the nations' wealth will come to you.

Camel in throngs will cover you and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*PS 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13*

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

In his days, justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring his gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate. All nations shall serve him.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

### A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS 3:2-3. 5-6

.....This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations. It means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are part of the same body and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 2:1-2

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was perturbed and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him; for this was the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem in Judah, you are by no means least among leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who shepherd my people Israel.'*

The Herod summoned the wise men to seek him privately. He asked them the exact day on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find all about the child. When you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to the king, they set out. In front of them was the star they had seen rising. It went forward and halted over where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight. In the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. However, they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod; they returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord

Taken from THE JERUSALEM BIBLE, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968

## **REFLECTION**

*from Sr Patricia Stevenson (Josephite)*

The Coming of the Magi in Matthew Ch. 2 has always been a favourite story. Statues, placed in the crib on this Feast after Christmas Day, can be large, exotic and mysterious. A short time later, they disappear for another year. Matthew Chapter 2 is filled with movement, starting in Bethlehem and ending in Nazareth by way of Egypt. Unique to Matthew, the story focuses on the fulfilment of Scripture, including Isaiah Chapter 60.

The writer draws on the story of Moses. In Exodus, we read about Moses' birth and boyhood. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, orders the killing of male infants. Moses is saved through the intervention of wise women. Later, in fear for his life, Moses runs to the desert. When the threat has passed, the Lord calls him return to save his people.

Matthew tells his Jewish audience that from his birth, Jesus bore some likeness to Moses who responded to God for his people in his time. Matthew presents Jesus in this New Covenant, revealing God's liberating and faithful love for ALL peoples and all creation. Matthew presents Jesus' call: "Go make disciples of all the Gentiles, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them all I have commanded you. I am with you until the end of the age." Let us pray and learn how we might respond in our time.